

The following news release was issued by Gov. Bob Riley's Press Office on Sept. 11, 2006.

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB RILEY

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Note: A photograph taken during this event can be downloaded from the Governor's website at www.governor.alabama.gov/.

Governor Riley, Representative Hurst and First Responders Unveil Design of "God Bless America" License Plate
Motorists Can Choose New License Plate Beginning Oct. 1

PRATTVILLE -- Surrounded by firefighters and police officers, Governor Bob Riley came to a Prattville fire department Monday to mark the fifth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks with praise for first responders and by unveiling a new license plate emblazoned with an American flag and the phrase "God Bless America."

Beginning Oct. 1, motorists can request the new distinctive license plate at no additional fee.

The new design is the result of a bill passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Riley in April. The bill's sponsor, Representative Steve Hurst, also took part in the unveiling ceremony. The bill made the Alabama Department of Revenue responsible for designing the license plate.

Governor Riley said the license plate's design is fitting for post-9-11 America. "As the shock of that September morning five years ago turned to sorrow, we Americans turned instinctively to two places. We turned to God in our grief and to our flag for inspiration."

The license plate is red, white and blue. It shows a waving American flag stretching across and the phrase "God Bless America" in blue across the bottom. The license plate also includes on its upper right side the phrase "Heart of Dixie," which is required by state law.

The "God Bless America" license plates are pre-numbered and cannot be personalized. It is available to owners of private passenger vehicles, including pickup trucks of no more than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight and motor homes regardless of weight. The license plate can also be used on buses owned by churches, private schools and hospitals.

It does not replace the state's current license plate design, which features the phrase "Stars Fell

on Alabama.” The “God Bless America” license plate is an option that can be chosen instead of the “Stars Fell on Alabama” design.

Governor Riley used the occasion to honor first responders. “Five years ago this morning, we looked on in horror as our nation was attacked and thousands of innocent lives were lost. But we also looked on with tremendous pride as we witnessed the courage of firefighters, police officers, emergency workers and everyday citizens. In the face of unspeakable tragedy, they reminded us of the great strength of America, and that great strength is our people.”

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For more information, contact the Governor’s Press Office at 334-242-7150.